

Club Picnic. Sunday April 14th 2019.

By Michael Creak

Another really nice day in paradise! Well organised by Dennis & June Catchpole at their lovely home in Te Awamutu.

A total of 22 cars with about 42 members arrived from either Tauranga via Western Bay Council car park or direct from their homes. We arrived pretty early direct from home to find four cars from Duncan and Ebbett already there. Three were used vehicles from their vehicles for sales stock but one was under a black cover. Many guessed it would be an I- Pace and when it was unveiled, indeed it was. A white one in fact.



I must acknowledge and thank Andrew, who is in charge of Jaguar marketing and attended with his partner and also, later we had Troy, a Jaguar technician, from Hamilton along to answer any technical questions from members.

The setting of the Catchpole residence is really lovely and we all enjoyed our morning tea, provided by our hosts, and later, our picnics in the sunshine and countryside of Te Awamutu. During our visit we were split up into groups of six and answered a set of 13 questions, set by Dennis, on general knowledge and Jaguar cars. Our group was well set up as those not good on general knowledge (like me!) made up on the Jaguar questions and we ended up winning with 12 answers correct! We also had a local car run lasting



about 30 minutes. Dennis, of course, set the instructions and we had to take the same time to cover the course as Dennis, not having any more information than to keep to the speed limits.



So it was a real guess but we saw lovely countryside we had never seen before which was the idea I guess. This was won by Rose and Geoffrey O'Connell. There was also a really unique golf/putting course and many tried this out as well. This was won by Chris Simmonds.

At various times during the proceedings Dennis took a car load for a short run in the I-Pace. Really interesting for us all as the first all electric car, I think all of us, had been in or even seen in the flesh. My impressions were of a very heavy (I believe 2.2 tonnes with the batteries) car which felt fast and stable despite the SUV height.



**Andrew Murray
with partner Karen**

Not much room in the back, according to those there. Outside it looks just like an E-Pace. The silence was spoilt by the air conditioning fan which we could not turn off. Dennis assured me the car would be fully silent if this was off. I also think that may be our rough chip roads would smoother the silence as well. It seems these cars are selling well with a number on order already, so good on you Jaguar for leading the electric way.

At about 3.30pm we started to wind down and departed leaving June and Dennis to clear up. They and their helpers worked really hard to give us all a great day out. Many thanks from us all.

Michael